



Douglas A. Ducey
Governor

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT
OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



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Henry R. Darwin
Director

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Docket Control
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007-2927

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RE: Docket No. W-00000C-15-0250 Small Water Systems Fund

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Arizona Corporation Commission's ("Commission") effort to find a permanent funding mechanism for the Small Water Systems Fund, established under Arizona Revised Statutes §49-355.

There are over 1,100 small public water systems serving less than 500 persons daily across Arizona. Unfortunately, a disproportionate number of these small systems violate one or more health-based drinking water standards and because they often lack the managerial, technical and/or financial resources to address these issues, present the most challenging compliance situations for both state and federal regulators. The Commission regulates approximately 30% of these small public water systems. ADEQ supports making grant funding available for emergency repairs or rehabilitation in order to correct or avoid an interruption of service would be a valuable resource in our collective efforts to ensure safe and reliable water service is being provided to the public.

As the fund is established in ADEQ statutes, the department would have no objections to managing the fund in house but also supports management by the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) as provided for in statute. Both agencies have the knowledge and expertise to manage such a fund.

Please do not hesitate to contract me directly at 602.771.2321 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Trevor Baggione, Director
Water Quality Program

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